

February 3, 2001

Board of Supervisors  
County of York  
P. O. Box 532  
Yorktown, Va. 23690

Dear Members:

I am a waterfront property owner on Tidemill Road in the Tabb area of the county. At the end of our road is a public boat ramp which has served boaters from all over the area for many years. The ramp has proven to be a very popular spot for fishermen to launch their boats. These guys drop their boats into the water and head out for a day of fishing. As the day ends they usually make it back in and head home. The vast majority of these people have a great deal of money invested in their boats and are quite proud of them. Accordingly, they also have respect for those of us who live on the water near the ramp.

However, in recent years we have seen a marked increase in weekend warriors with their throw away boats. I am of course referring to personal watercraft also known as 'jet skies'. With a few exceptions, these people put their boats in the water and proceed to terrorize every living thing in the immediate area of the ramp. I have watched them for hours run around in circles in front of my house trying to keep the wakes high so that they can jump them. Often there are six or seven playing at the same time. I have seen several near collisions as well as one actual contact between a pwc and a center console style boat. There were no injuries. This time.

As described in one enclosed letter, some boaters are actually trying to scare away a nesting osprey by splashing it with their wake. Our section of the river has been filling in more and more each year because of erosion. This problem is further aggravated by the wake which is left behind boats speeding in and out. Also enclosed, you will find information which was provided by Anna Drake of the York Wetlands Board. This publication emphasizes the need to control boat wakes to slow down erosion.

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Because we are waterfront property owners, our tax assessments are much higher than our inland neighbors. Interestingly, I went to the Board of Equalization some years back to challenge my assessment. A member of the board advised me that I was paying for the view and my assessment was not reduced. Well folks, my view is disappearing. The primary cause of this is the unregulated misuse of boats in a tight waterfront area. This section of Poquoson River above the boat ramp does not have the open water that the rest of the river has. This area compares in size to Quartermarsh Creek, Patricks Creek and Lambs Creek, all of which have 'No Wake' signs.

This problem has to be addressed now. With the new sewers being installed there will be a mad rush to develop the few square feet of open land that remain. This will of course cause further stress on our fragile environment. We can at least ease some of this by slowing down the boaters who don't give a damn about anything other than their own interests.

I believe that I have more than shown a need for a 'No Wake' sign. It is my hope that the Board will agree and approve this thing. I can think of nothing that could justify allowing people to continue to abuse the waterfowl, marine life or the residents who live on these waters.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Holloway

204 Hollywood Blvd  
Yorktown, VA. 23692  
January 26, 2001

York County  
Board of Supervisors  
Yorktown, VA.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: No Wake Sign

We live on the Poquoson River close to the Harwood Mill reservoir. We have a tremendous amount of water traffic, i.e. boats, jet skis. The waves from the water traffic, going at high speed is causing land erosion. In addition to the lose of land, we have an Osprey nest and the jet skis continue to harass the Osprey by riding around and around the nest trying to spray water on the birds.

With the already fragile and eroding property environment, it has become necessary to request a No Wake Sign be put up in our area. We cannot afford to wait any longer because the waves hitting our shores are eroding our land at an alarming rate. Please consider this request and act as fast as possible to preclude any further land erosion.

If you have additional questions for me, please feel free to contact me during the day at 757-878-4771 and night 757-874-3164.



Respectfully,  
Everett & Juanita Davis

January 7, 2001

Chairman  
Board of Supervisors  
County of York

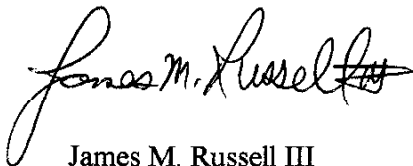
Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to support the request to place a "no wake" marker in the Poquoson River that will eliminate wakes from boat traffic in the area beginning in the vicinity of the public boat ramp at the end of Tidemill Road and extending to the end of the river near Showalter Road. We live at 124 Breezy Point Drive and have an extensive area of marsh on the back of our property that is a habitat for various species of marine life. During the 17 years we have lived in our home, the marsh grass has eroded more than twenty feet and while we cannot prove this is all due to boat wakes, it is surely a major contributing factor. Further, we continue to see frequent high speed boat traffic behind our house and we feel that this must be stopped in order to avoid further continued erosion.

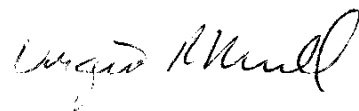
We hope the Board of Supervisors will give favorable consideration to the request for a "no wake" marker.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at home at 898-9851 or work at 728-6893. Our email address is [haloe2@home.com](mailto:haloe2@home.com).

Sincerely,



James M. Russell III

  
Virginia R. Russell